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PASADENA,

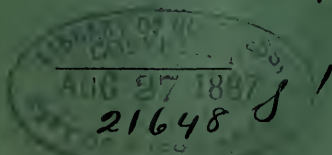
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY,

Southern ❖ California

THE

ADVANTAGES, RESOURCES, PRODUCTIONS
AND PROSPERITY OF THE SAN
GABRIEL VALLEY,
AND

A DESCRIPTION OF PASADENA.



INFORMATION FOR

HOME-SEEKERS AND TOURISTS.

1887

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Southern California.

THE ITALY OF AMERICA.

The Haven of the Invalid, the Delight of
the Tourist.

THE ONLY PERFECT CLIMATE IN THE WORLD
AND THE GRANDEST SCENERY UNDER
THE SUN.

NO section of the United States, or of the world, has ever attracted such universal attention as is now being directed to the southern portion of the Golden State. The tide of immigration during the past century was centered in many a fair valley and on many a fertile plain, westward from Maine and Virginia; yet here, where the broad Pacific has set a bound to the westward course of empire, is nature's most perfect creation—a land whose fruitful soil and varied products, whose health-blessed climate and sun-kissed scenery are unequalled in all the world. And why?

The topographical division of California into north and south is marked by the cross range of the Sierra Madre mountains, extending east from the coast to the Sierra Nevada chain, which continues south along the eastern boundary of the State in broken ranges. The coast-line trends in a south-easterly direction, intersecting the mountain chain near the Mexican border, and thus has nature wholly isolated this region from the lands to the north and east.

The breezes from the warm ocean-current, that flows north along the coast, kiss into luxurious existence a myriad of flowers and fruits, then pass up to the summit of the mountains to be robbed of their moisture by the dry winds from the great Mojave desert that stretches beyond, yet remain an unconquerable barrier against the advance of the arctic-chilled winter blasts that spread desolation "beyond the Rockies;" thus making Southern California a perpetual summer-land—a land where vegetation is always green, and where flowers bloom and fruits mature all the year round.

SOIL AND IRRIGATION.

The soil of Southern California is exceedingly fertile, and peculiarly well adapted to the raising of cereals and fruits. The dry season, lasting from May until October or November, renders irrigation necessary in most portions of Southern California, although there are "moist lands," where vegetation flourishes luxuriantly without this artificial aid. To the people of the Eastern States, who do not understand the system, irrigation is a bug-bear—a drawback which all other advantages cannot counter-balance. But the citizens of California would not exchange their mode of watering their lands, whenever and in whatever quantity needed, for the uncertainty of nature's "refreshing showers." On all improved lands pipes are laid at convenient distances apart, and it requires but the turning of a hydrant to water these broad acres in defiance of cloudless skies.

The rainy season is little understood by those who have not spent a winter, or more than one, in the State. So far from its being six months of disagreeable weather and continuous rain, it is the pleasantest part of the year. The first rainfall may occur any time from August to November, and reminds one of the April showers of the East, with the exception of the thunder and lightning—a phenomenon rarely

experienced here. There may be a week of continuous rainy weather, that is, occasional heavy showers interspersed with drizzling rain, repeated two or three times during December, January, February or March. Gentle showers fall at intervals in April and May. There are not, perhaps, as many rainy days as are had in the States east of the Mississippi, and the duration of the dry season varies from three to five months, not longer than some of the droughts beyond the Rockies, and California has the advantage of irrigation.

PRODUCTS.

Southern California produces wheat, barley, oats, corn, etc., and the yield per acre is unequalled even on the rich prairies of the Mississippi valley. Alfalfa, a species of clover, yields on the moist lands from two to five immense crops of excellent hay per year, and quite often as many seven.

Here grapes grow to perfection and in profusion. There are vineyards that cover square miles of territory, and the wines that are produced are vieing for the lead with the most famous brands of Europe, while the raisins, which are made in vast quantities, are as fine as any that reach the markets.

Oranges, lemons and limes are as productive and as universally cultivated as grapes. In every settled portion of this favored region they are to be found, and oranges may be gathered every month in the year, although the main season for them is from December to August.

Peaches, apricots, nectarines, loquats, manderines, pears, apples, prunes, dates, figs, olives, bananas (in favored sections), pomegranates, almonds, English walnuts—in short, almost everything that will grow in either the tropical or temperate zones flourish and yield bountiful crops. All kinds of berries and vegetables are produced nearly every month in the year; peas, new potatoes and strawberries are never a rarity.

CLIMATE.

The climate, while it is everywhere delightful, varies in different localities. The severe hot weather which is supposed to exist here is much of a myth, save in those valleys which lie east of the first range of mountains, where the mercury sometimes registers more than one hundred, though rarely; while even that far inland something of the influence of the ocean-breeze penetrates, which, with the altitude, renders the nights exceedingly pleasant. In the valleys that extend upward from the ocean toward the mountains, and at a distance of from fifteen to fifty miles from the ocean, is to be found the perfection of climate that has rendered this region famous throughout the world. Along the beach it is delightful in summer and pleasant in winter.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

IN all Southern California no other spot is so delightful as the San Gabriel Valley, and to no other spot do a tithe of the tourists resort that cluster here. It was in this valley that flourished by far the most prosperous of all the many missions, founded by the Franciscan friars over a century ago. Of all this fair region they chose this valley as the most desirable, and, although the land remained in the possession of the unprogressive Mexican for so long a period, time has proved to the world the wisdom of the choice made by these priests of the olden time. This valley is justly called the "Italy of America."

The valley proper extends east and west for twenty-five miles on both sides of the San Gabriel river, and from the Sierra Madre mountains to the ocean, but it is that portion lying south of the mountains, and comprising a strip of land fifteen to twenty

miles wide and forty miles long, that constitutes the "Garden of Eden" of modern times.

MOUNTAIN SCENERY.

To the north rises the Sierra Madre range, its summits reaching up among the clouds to a height of 7,000 feet. The scarred and seamed outlines of these mighty monuments, that guard the valley from arctic evils, present a picture of awe-inspiring grandeur and sublimity—a picture that is unsurpassed even among the famous Alps. Down the cañon-creased sides of these eternal hills ripple the cool mountain streams, now laughing along in foaming cascades and anon wreathing some precipice with rainbow spray as the sparkling waters take their wingless leap down to the ragged rocks a hundred feet below, and then murmur adown the widening cañon and under the spreading branches of gnarled and picturesque live-oaks, which seem as aged as the gray granite boulders whose fantastic figures frown around. Scenes of rugged beauty and of pastoral enchantment everywhere alternate. No other land is so lovely as this valley; no other spot knows such ideal, happy homes.

HEALTHFULNESS.

The northern portion of this Eden-land has an altitude of from 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the level of the sea, and the atmosphere is exceedingly pure and entirely free from malaria. Its dryness renders the air especially beneficial to those whose lungs are diseased. Invalids come here by the hundreds, and in every instance, where they are not past all hope, they speedily find that precious boon which they have sought in vain in every other clime. Remarkable, indeed, is the record of cures wrought by this wonderful climate. Consumptives, whom physicians of the East had declared past all help, have come here and in a few weeks have shaken off the fetters of that Eastern ice-born curse, and are to-day enjoying per-

fect health. Is it strange that they are happy, that they love this sunny southland? Would to God that the hundreds of thousands in the East who are slowly dying might come hither! What is more blessed than to see the light of hope wake in the invalid's eye, and the flush of returning health spread over the cheek, to note the form grow supple and the step elastic, to watch the smile of happiness and contentment grow over the careworn visage with the assurance of complete restoration! The San Gabriel valley is an Eden to him who possesses health, a Paradise to him who here finds it.

The oppressive atmosphere so common in the East, the murky days when one can scarcely breathe, the sultry nights which render sleep impossible, the sudden changes from dry to wet and from hot to cold, with the accompanying colds and fevers—all these features and many others that make life in the Eastern States a burden are unknown here. During the summer months the warmest days (and the mercury very seldom rises above 85 degrees) are made pleasant by the presence of the ocean breeze, which springs up before noon and tempers the sunshine with its cooling breath. It is always pleasantly cool in the shade. Along toward sunset it grows cooler, and the nights are delightful. The soft light of the moon and the twinkling rays of the stars irradiate the valley with a mellow silver glow, making the landscape appear like some enchanted vision of a dreamy imagination. During the winter months the temperature is equable and cool enough to make a light overcoat a necessity if one is riding, but never cold enough to cause more than a slight hoar frost, which, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, does not injure even the most delicate flowers and vegetables, and these frosts occur but rarely. All in all, the world does not furnish a more desirable climate, or a more prosperous and beautiful region than the San Gabriel valley.

FACTS FOR ALL.

“Does fruit-raising pay?” “Is Los Angeles County adapted to agriculture?” “Can a poor man earn a living in Southern California?” Such questions as the above are asked by the hundreds who would like to emigrate to this country, but are deterred from so doing by reason of being unable to learn what advantages Southern California has to warrant their coming. We will cite a few examples in regard to fruit-raising, taken at random. One Pasadena orange orchard of eighteen acres yielded this year over 5,000 boxes of oranges, and the fruit was sold on the trees for \$5,000. All the care that had been given the orchard was to plow and cultivate the ground once or twice to keep down the weeds and to irrigate the trees a few times. An English walnut grove, near Monrovia, containing about fifty acres, yields on an average, per year, nuts to the value of \$5,000. These trees do not require irrigation, and the only labor necessary is to keep the ground free from weeds. Lemons, peaches, apricots, etc., yield crops that pay equally well, and the fruit crystalizing establishments and canneries afford a home market for all the fruit raised. Figs and olives pay even a higher per cent. of profit, while berries of all kinds produce bountifully and are always in demand at good prices. There is such a variety of soil and such differing climatic influences that no one statement can be applied to the whole county. In the Los Nietos Valley, a western portion of the San Gabriel Valley, the writer has known maize to yield, by weight, one hundred bushels per acre, and the corn is harder and better than Eastern corn. This same crop also does well in various localities along the San Gabriel River. Barley is one of the grains that does well in any section of the county, and the yield is always large. In the sections where alfalfa does not prosper, barley, cut while the grain is in the milk, is used for hay, and makes an excellent feed for stock. Los Angeles County is not a wheat region in the California accept-

ance of facts, though large acreages of that grain are sown, and, while the yield is not equal to that in more northern counties, it surpasses that of many of the prairie States. All kinds of vegetables do remarkably well. With the great variety of articles that are grown here, and the bountiful yield of all, there is probably no other section of the United States that is better adapted to agricultural pursuits than Southern California.

As to the chances afforded a laboring man, no man need be a day without employment, and the wages paid are the very highest. The average pay of mechanics of all classes for the past year has been \$3.50 per day of nine hours. Common laborers get \$2.00 per day, and are in demand. The vast amount of building is giving employment to thousands, and the still vaster amount of improvements being made on lands, the planting and cultivating of orchards and vineyards, the task of adorning and ornamenting the yards of the rich men who are constantly coming here and establishing homes, the great amount of work in laying water pipes, and the thousand and one things necessary to be done to bring into perfect condition a hitherto undeveloped country—all these features make this a land in which the laboring man is a necessity. One who has not been here cannot readily understand that such a condition of affairs as now obtains here is permanent, but if Eastern people knew what perfection of climate, what beauty of surroundings, what grandeur of scenery exists here, and what an altogether desirable place to live in this region is, they would cease to wonder longer. One falls in love with the country on sight, and the passion grows upon him the longer he stays. No one who has been here a year would be content to live elsewhere. Such are the conditions that have foreordained that Southern California shall become the most densely populated section of America, and the San Gabriel Valley is the heart of hearts of this wonder-land!

PASADENA.

This famous young city is situated at the west end of the valley, with the mountains four miles to the north and the San Rafael hills immediately to the west. This city already has a population of 10,000, is substantially built, and without doubt the most beautiful town in America. It is but eight years since the first colony settled there, and nine-tenths of the city's growth has been made in the last two years. The perfection of flowers and shrubbery, the beautiful lawns and gardens, where almost every variety of trees, plants and flowers in the world may be found, could have been grown in no other land in so short a time, if at all. From autumn to spring and from spring to autumn there is no cessation in the growth of vegetation. There are no frosts to blast, no winters to destroy even the most delicate of plants.

Here grow, side by side, the Norway pine and the banana, the camphor tree and the apple, the elm and palm. Flowers from Australia and New England, from every tropical and every temperate clime, scatter their perfumes over the sun-kissed vale. Orange orchards environ Pasadena, or rather Pasadena lies embosomed in an orange grove. In the rapid growth of the town only such of the orange trees have been removed as was necessary to make room for the buildings, and consequently many of the homes are hidden among the trees, amid whose evergreen branches and white wax-like blossoms gleams the golden fruit. Everywhere are cypress hedges, and the streets are shaded with the tall eucalyptus and the spreading pepper trees. Yards are adorned with acacias and grevillas, giant palms and cacti, rose trees and calla lilies, marguerites and

magnolias, with trees, shrubs and flowers of every description.

A MARVELOUS HISTORY.

The history of Pasadena for the past eighteen months reads like an Arabian Nights' tale. Eighteen months ago the "colony," as it was termed, had a population of 2,000 or 3,000, and outside of a few elegant houses but limited improvements had been made. There was not a brick business house in the place, nor a foot of side-walk, and the San Gabriel Valley Railway had been completed only from Los Angeles to Pasadena. But the fame of the place, its beauty and its climate, was becoming spread abroad by the tourists who had visited here and by the invalids who had regained their health. People began to flock into the valley, and all who came naturally settled in Pasadena, the loveliest spot in the valley. People were anxious to have homes, and property began to change hands. Values were low, and everyone made investments. The business of the town began to increase and brick blocks were occasionally erected to meet the growing demand for room. In June, 1886, the town was incorporated, and from that time the development has been rapid. Fair Oaks Avenue and Colorado, then the principal business streets, were scenes of busy activity, and a more extended, rapid and substantial amount of building was never witnessed in any town. Workmen and men of wealth came from all parts of the country, and joined in forwarding the wonderful era of prosperity that had dawned upon the young city. During the year of 1886 the magnificent Raymond Hotel, costing \$250,000, was completed, as was also the Carlton Hotel, nearly as large. Besides these there are a half-dozen other fine hotels and numerous boarding-houses. At the same time more than a score of large business houses were erected, and something over eight hundred residences. Still there

was an urgent demand for more room, and building material could not be obtained to meet the emergency. During 1886 three street railways were completed and put in operation, while a half-dozen others were projected. The streets, many of them, were graded and miles of cement side-walk were laid. The city was lighted with gas, and everything kept even pace in this rapid advance.

The half of the year 1887 that has passed has even outdone the record of 1886. The population has increased to 10,000, and the limits of the city have been widely extended. New street railways have been constructed, and two steam railroads are being built through the city. The first month of 1887 witnessed the purchase of the San Gabriel Valley road by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fé Company, and its completion to San Bernardino; thus placing Pasadena on the through line of that road from Kansas City to Los Angeles. A new impetus was given to the force with which the city was forging forward, and the wonderful changes and grand improvements that are being made are simply startling. Some fifteen business houses, representing over sixty store rooms, are now being completed, one of them the largest building in the State outside of San Francisco. A \$100,000 opera house has been contracted for. Scores of residences are being built—miles of side-walk are being laid. A mammoth fruit crystalizing establishment is in operation, and also a large cannery. The work of putting in one of the most perfect sewer systems in the country is in progress, and countless other improvements.

During the past twelve months an elegant public school building was finished. A half-dozen churches were erected, and three more are being built, at a cost of from \$25,000 to \$40,000 each. The cornerstone of an elegant stone building, to be used for a public library and museum, has just been laid. The Young Men's Christian Association is putting up

one of finest edifices in the city. A daily newspaper has been established some months and another one is to spring into existence immediately. One of the latest enterprises is to build a railway to the summit of Wilson's Peak, a distance of ten miles from valley to mountain-top, which has an elevation above the sea of over 7,000 feet. The scenery of the Sierras is grand beyond description, and this road will afford access to the most sublime and impressive portion of all the range. There will be no resort to equal it in all the world, and when one considers that it is but an hour's ride by rail from the ocean side to the summit of these mountains, he will have some idea of the variety of scenery this country affords.

There are three commercial banks and one savings-bank here, aggregating \$2,000,000 deposits, which will give some idea of the volume of business transacted. Another infallible index to the business of a town is the postal service, and the post-office in Pasadena was, on July 1st of this year, advanced from a third-class to a second-class office. New mercantile enterprises are being established, and every merchant in the city is doing a prosperous business. One of the coming benefits to the city will be the building of the Southern Pacific Railroad, the route for which has been surveyed, and its construction assured in the immediate future. This will give us the two leading roads of the West. That Pasadena is building on a solid foundation, and that she is destined to become a great city, cannot be controverted. She has all the natural advantages to insure even a brighter future than is claimed for her—great as may be that claim.

But back of all, and above all other considerations, are two facts that should not be lost sight of—facts that are more potent in continuing the prosperity of Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley than any extraneous influences could possibly be. These facts are, her health-giving climate and her soul-thrilling scenery. That these points are dwelt upon so largely needs no apology. These are the innate charms of this region—the blessings that bring humanity nearer to physical and moral perfection. The influence of our beneficent climate saves health to him who has

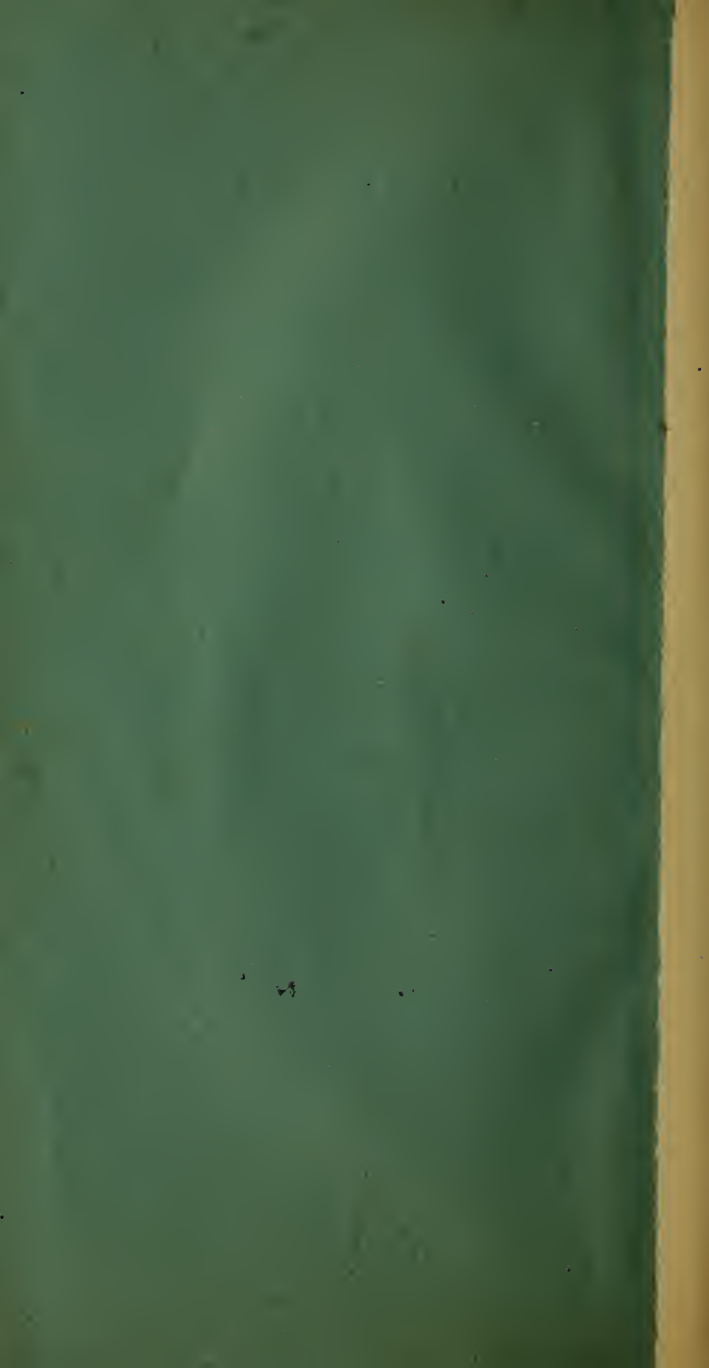
it and gives health to him who has it not. The analogy is equally applicable to the effect that beautiful scenery exerts upon the character. Ah! this is a veritable Aidenn to both the lover of health and the lover of nature. Life is a poem in such a land as this—an existence that is as nearly ideal as mortality can attain. Were America such a land as a whole as it is here in part, then would our noble country be as grand in reality as its government is grand.

PASADENA'S SURROUNDINGS.

Eight miles southwest of Pasadena is Los Angeles, the metropolis of Southern California, with 50,000 inhabitants. It is only second in size to San Francisco among the cities of the State, and is making a marvelous advancement in population, wealth and commercial importance. From the fact that Los Angeles has six hundred feet less elevation than Pasadena, it is much less desirable as a residence place or health resort. Olivewood, Raymond and South Pasadena are thriving suburbs of Pasadena and virtually a part of the city. East of Pasadena are Lamanda Park, Sierra Madre, Monrovia, Duarte and Azusa. Except Monrovia these are small but growing villages, and are advancing with the general progress of the valley. Monrovia, eight miles east of Pasadena, is but little over a year old and is enjoying a rapid and substantial growth, already having a population of 1,000 and many important improvements.

A WORD TO TOURISTS.

The coming autumn and winter is destined to witness such a rush of people to Southern California as will tax to the utmost the capacity of the country to accommodate. Yet this fact need deter no one from coming, for, if the hotels should not prove sufficient, rooms can be obtained with private families. No one who can afford to come, and especially those who are predisposed to lung troubles, should fail to spend the winter in this Eden of health. Aside from investments in real estate, and the large profits made, it is a land that one can ill afford not to visit. It amply repays the time and expense, and broadens one's views of our proud country and the variety of its climate and scenery.



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